

The thoughts of an honest Whig upon
the present proceedings of that party..

THE
THOUGHTS
OF AN
Honest Whig,
UPON THE
Present Proceedings
OF THAT
PARTY.

In a Letter to a Friend in Town.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year, 1710.

S I R,

TH O' my *Retirement* into the Country, from the Hurry and Noise of a populous and busie trading Town, to enjoy a more healthy and pleasant *Air*, the sweets of *Solitude*, and my *self*, in serious Contemplations of the *Instability* of Mundane Affairs, has deprived me of a *Personal* Conversation with so honest and ingenious an *Intimate* as your self, in whose Society and *Sentiments* I was always so extremely pleas'd and delighted, that I thought my *withdrawing* from London, one of the greatest *Calamities* in that kind that could befall a *thinking* Man; yet I must with great Satisfaction acknowledge my Obligations to your *Learned Pen*, in the Absence of your worthy Person, in taking all Opportunities by an *Epistolary* Correspondence, to assure me, tho' I am out of *Sight*, I have still a Place in your *Memory*, and distance of *Miles* has not extinguish'd our mutual *Friendship*, so early began, so happily continued, and which I hope and pray, may not only be as *durable* as our Lives, but descend to our Posterities. Now as this *Familiar* and obliging *Conversation* merits on my Part, a *grateful* Acknowledgment; so I am not without Hopes, that it will procure me Indemnity on yours, for taking the freedom in *Answer* to your last *Letter*, to remind you of your *misapprehending* the true State of *Publick Affairs*, in relation to our selves, as *Whigs*, *Republicans*, *Antimonarchists*, *Dissenters*, or what other reproachful Epithets our *Tory-Adversaries* are pleas'd to confer upon us: And to *Lament*, that your *Self* and too many of our other *fast Friends*, are at present eagerly pursuing such Methods for the Re-establishment of the *Good Old Cause*, and preserving themselves in profitable *Posts*, as without a *Miracle* will *Ruin* both, and envelope the *Whigs* in Contempt and Derision, for forfeiting the *great Power* and Advantages we have lately had, by *ambitiously* endeavouring to *Engross* the *Whole*; of which Mistakes, in Honour and Honesty, I think my self oblig'd to Caution you.

That I am perfectly of your *Religion*, and have the same Notions in *Politicks* with your self, is not to be doubted at this time of Day. We sat many Years together in the same *Pew*, under the Ministry of Mr. *Burgefs*. We Weekly kept the same *Clubs*, always Poll'd for the same *Members*, *Mayors*, and *Sheriffs*, and were both *Elders* of the same Congregation; and yet I cannot forbear entering my *Protest* against the Measures in your last *Letter*, nor share in the same Joy which you seem to have received, in a *Victory* over the *Tory Party*, the *Doctrin* of *Non Resistance*.

sistance and Passive Obedience, and the Queens *Hereditary Rights to the Crown of Great Britain, France and Ireland*. I say not this, as if I was inclin'd to shift Sides, or change my Opinion; No, far be such a Thought from me, I am entirely satisfy'd that We are positively in the *Right* and our Adversaries in the *Wrong*; and yet I cannot but say, that the violent *Heats* and *Indiscretion* of many of our Friends, instead of making our Condition better, have render'd it much worse than it was before the *Struggle* began.

We were at *Ease*, in perfect Tranquility, every one of us (that would) sat at quiet, unmolested, *under our own Vines and Fig-trees*. We suffered no *Persecution* for our Consciences in matters of Religion; we were not forc'd to go to the *Steeple-Houses*, nor bow our Knees to *Baal*. The *Pœnal Laws* were taken off; the *Scourge* was no longer shak'd over our Heads; we were *protected* by the Government, equally with the rest of her Majesty's good Subjects; *Tolerated* by Law, and had the *Royal Word* for *maintaining* that Toleration. We had all the *Freedom* we could ask, all the *Liberty* we could desire; and what Occasion then was there to *contend* for more? The *Tythe* or Gleanings of these *Immunities* in some former Reigns, would have been thought an *inestimable* Favour and Blessing; but now, tho' we enjoy them all in *full Measure*, *heap'd and press'd down*, and for some Years last past have had the *largest* Share of the *Best Preferments* under the Government, according to our *Capacities*; yet we have wanted *Tongues* to be *Thankful*, and *Hearts* to be *Contented*. Is not this a Reflection upon our Conduct?

Hot Headed Men, never did good to any *Cause*, nor Covetous Hands to any Society: They that cannot know when they are *Well*, are commonly tampering with *State-Drugs*, 'till they make themselves irrecoverably out of *Order*; and they that undermine *Pillars*, seldom fail of bringing down an *Old House* upon their Heads. This was our Case, may Heaven divert the Omen. The *Tories* courted our Favour, *sneak'd* to us for *mean* Employments, and were glad to lick up the *Crumbs* that fell from our *plentiful Tables*. The Government warm'd us in its *Bosom*, and in requital, 'tis said, we have attempted to sting it to Death.

Was it not the Height of Folly, *Indiscretion* and *Madness*, to say no worse, when all Things were at *Quiet* and in perfect *Peace*, under the happiest *Reign* in Nature, and under the *Best Princess* in the Universe, who indulg'd us to a degree of *Towardly* Children, to *spurn* against the *Breasts* that gave us Suck, and to *cramp* the Knees whereon we were *Dandled*? What Reason in the Name of Goodness, had the *Preachers* of our Party, whether in *Steeple-Houses* or *Meeting-Houses*, to raise out of us *Cries* of Oblivion, and *Reproaches*?

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Dead and Buried; when there was no Cause, Pretence or *Provocation* in the World for it! Was not this to provoke the poor crawling *Worms*, the *Despised Tories*, when we trod so hard upon 'em, to turn against us, and tho' we had cut and divided 'em into very Minute Pieces, to Unite in *Defence* of their *Darling Doctrines* of *Non Resistance* and *Passive Obedience*? I will not pretend to guess at the *fatal* Consequences of this *Rash* Attempt, but do affirm, if it should have an *ill Effect* upon our own *Party*, we may thank our selves for being the *Agressors*, and putting Arguments into the *Tories* Mouths, that the profoundest *Scholars* among the *Whigs*, may give ill Names to, but can never answer. Is not this to confirm the Truth of what the *Tories* throw upon us, that we are a *Sturdy, Headstrong, Malecontented People*, that are never contented Full nor Fastig?

Certainly 'twas want of a *Prudent Foresight*, and a *Cool Wise* Consideration, that put our *Preachers* upon Advancing, and our Brethren upon *Countenancing*, the Doctrin of *Resisting* the Supreme Powers in so Extravagant and Open a Manner, before they were surer of *Winning* the Game they were Playing. Was not this awakning those that call themselves the *Loyal Party*, and putting them in Mind, that *Resisting* the Supreme Authority, was the Doctrin that begat all the *Mischiefs* and *Miseries* of *Forty One*; that raised a *Bloody War* in the *Bowels* of the Kingdom; that *Eutch'd* their *Loyal Ancestors*; *Plunder'd* their *Goods*; *Sequestered* their *Estates*, made them first *Compound* for their own *Revenues*, and afterwards *Decimated* them at Pleasure; of which their Posterity feel the *sad Effects* to this very Day? Can their *Offspring*, think you, forget the *Ravishing* their *Predecessors Wives, Sisters, and Daughters*; the *Burning* their *Houses*, *Demolishing* their *Castles*, turning their *Temples* into *Stables*, and their *Barnes* into *Conventicles* of *Rebellion*; which at length terminated in the *Barbarous Murder* (as they call it) of the *Lord's Anointed*; Involving the Nation in *Confusion*, and as they (erroneously) say, *Overturning* the very *Foundation* of the *Establish'd Government* in *Church and State*?

Why should our *Uwary*, tho' *Zealous Brethren*, put these *Reproaches* into the Mouths of the *Tories*, before the *Age* is of *Maturity* to distinguish the Right of Resistance from the *Sin* of *Rebellion*? since they perfectly know that our *Ignorant Unsanctified Tories* have neither *Wit* or *Grace* enough, to make *Allowance* (when they talk of *Rebellion*) for the peculiar *Privileges* of the *Saints* in *helping* the *Lord* against the *Mighty*, and that the Dictates of their *New Lighted Consciences*, cancel the *Obligation* of all *Oaths* and *Duties* of *Allegiance*. Seasonable *Holding's Forth* are the *Life* of our Cause, and *Mis-timing* the

How could any *Pious Whig* reasonably imagine, that whilst the Queen is Honour'd, Belov'd, and her Government Applauded and *Approved* in so extraordinary a Manner by all her Subjects, that placing the *Right of Power in the People*, tho' it's one of the choicest of our Religious and *Politick* Principles, could be an Acceptable Doctrin to the Queen Her Self, or some Sort of Her People that know no better? and therefore was a Sin of Ignorance, Weakness, or Wilfulness in Mis-timing it only, say some of our Party; but I am *grieved* at Heart, and troubled in *Conscience* at these unjust Proceedings. I am not at all concerned in the Tryal of Doctor *Sacheverel*; but if Preaching what in Conscience they think is true, be *tolerated* in our own *Preachers*, I know no Reason but the Doctor may come for his Share of the *Indulgence* also. I am much *afflicted* at the repeated *Prevarications* of the *Whigs*, and the strenuous Endeavours that are employed, to *invalidate* the Queen's *Hereditary Right*; which is but a meer Trick to keep on Foot the exploded Doctrin, that the *Original* of all Power is in the People: And who in *that Case* will be interpreted to be the *People*, is no difficult Matter to determine. Her Majesty's *Legal Right* has its due *Weight* and proper Signification; but I cannot, without offering Violence to my *Reason, Judgment* and *Conscience*, consent to the laying aside her *Hereditary Right* to the Crown, until the Oppugners of it, do prove, that Her Majesty is not the *Legitimate* Daughter of that Unfortunate Prince the late King *James* the Second.

I am surprized to hear such a *Noise* of late made by the *Whigs* about the *Pretender*; a Prince on the *other side* of the Water, a *Jure Divino* King, nay, and sometimes our *Rightful* and *Lawful* King *James* the Third; at a Time when he was almost quite forgotten: We cannot *defend* our Party from being the Sole Raisers of all this Discourse about him, after he was legally *Abjur'd* and *Outlaw'd*. No sooner can a poor *silly Tory* talk of the *Queens Hereditary Right of Succession*, but some Fool-hardy Zealous *Whig*, will be flapping him in the Mouth with the *Pretender*, the *Pretender*! And what can all this *Noise* signify, but to insinuate that there is a Person in the World, that has a *Prior Title* to that of the Queen, by *Right of Inheritance*? Is not this doing the *Tories* Work for 'em, whilst we are bitterly inveighing against them, for pretending to promote his Interest? Nay, I am bold to affirm, that my Ears have been more *violated* with impertinent Tattle about the *Pretender's Right* for the last past four or five Months, and that even by the *Whigs* themselves, than in seven Years Time before. I wash my Hands and my very *Thoughts* from being concerned in these Daring Impudent Discourses, that tend to nothing but *Affronting* her Majesty and *Clipping* her *Rightful Authority*: God forgive the *Authors* and

Abettors of such *Insinuations*, for they know not how much Mis-
chief they do.

And now if I may be allowed to speak the Truth, as I use to do, 'tis the *Horror* of my Soul, to find so much bare-fac'd Dis-
simulation among us, that glory in being call'd *Whigs*, and pre-
tend to a greater Share of *Truth* and *Sincerity* than is to be found
among the *Tories*; and yet there's little or no Truth at all in
many of us, if our Practices are confronted with our Principles.
Don't the *Whigs* accuse the *Ceremonies* of the Church of *England*
as *Superstitious*, *Popish* and *Idolatrous*? And yet Bait the most *Rigid*
Stiff-Rumpt *Whig* among us with a *Profitable Place*, and it fairly
Tells him to Church, and before *Prayers begin* too; he'll *Devoutly*
kneel before the Communion Table, and with abundance of
seeming Zeal and Gravity, receive the *Sacrament* from the Hands
of a Church of *England Priest*, who has his *Surplice*, *Tippes* and *Scar-*
let Hood on: Tho' he was scarce ever at Church before in his Life;
nor never will go again, unless he is tempted with another as *ad-*
vantagous a Motive, to Debauch his *Scrupulous Conscience*. Is not
this *Dissembling* with God and Man, and *translating* a pretended
Zealous *Whig*, into a real *Occasional Hypocrite*? Nor must it be
omitted, that tho' we pretend to be the greatest Enemies in the
Universe to *Despotick Governments*, yet its recent in the Nation's
Memory, how readily we fell in with the *Measures* of a late
King, for *Subversion* of the Church and State, and bringing in
Popery and *Arbitrary Power*. 'Tis true, we talk of owing great
Duty to the Queen, but we never pay it, nor esteem Allegiance
due to any Prince, longer than it suits with our *Conveniencies*,
and then our *Lawful Prince*, *Turk*, or *Pretender* is all alike to us;
for he that bids fairest for our *Interest* shall be *Declared* to have
the *best Right*, and we never fail to *Assist* him in employing as
Arbitrary a Government as any *Emperor of the East* over the rest
of the Nation, so as long as we are permitted to exercise a *Li-*
centious Liberty, who never yet allowed a *Reasonable* one to
others: We pretend to love *Monarchy*, and yet in Truth are Pro-
fess'd *Republicans*.

The next Particular that gives my tender Conscience so much
Un easiness, is, that I plainly see, for want of *Truth* and *Argu-*
ment, our Cause is supported with nothing but abominable, ap-
parent *Lies*, *Falshood*, and *Slaunder*; witness those two wretched,
tho' necessary Tools of our Party the *Observer* and *Review*, as
the *Tories* call 'em; to which I might add a *Nestling Pen-Fea-*
ther'd Doctor, that to his *Credit*, has given himself the Liberty
of Publishing *The Thoughts of an Honest Tory*, upon the late Pro-
ceedings of that Party, in a pretended *Letter from the Country to*
a Friend in Town; when there's good Reason to believe, that
that *Libel* took its Rise not far from *St. James's Church, West-*
minster.

Thus

Thus we are made to assume any *Name, Shape, or Figure*, or *espouse* any Scandalous Reports, to Abuse the *High-Church Party*, which in the *Sequel*, upon Examination, turns to our own *Reproach*, as the hardy *Inventors* and Impudent *Asserters* of the *grossest* Calumnies and most *notorious* Falshoods, that ever was obruded upon an Over-credulous People; of which I shall take leave to refresh your *Memory*, with some known *Instances* in Matters of *Fact*, that our *Party* cannot Deny or Palliate, and consequently must *prejudice* our Cause.

That Virulent Party-Scribler, as the *Tories* call Mr. *Daniel De Foe*, Author of the *Review*, who they say, lives by *Defamation* and Writing to the *Level* of the *Mob*; the Mercenary *Mischievous* Tool of the *Whigish Low-Church Party*, being, as they give out, ambitious of keeping up the *Reputation* of a *Scurrilous* prostitute Pen, and of an Infamous *Stigmatiz'd* Incendiary, that he might, as the *Tories* report, with the more *Grace*, intolerable *Injustice*, and no less *Confidence*, represent the Church of *England*, as by Law Establish'd, to be a *Persecuting Church*, and compos'd of such a Set of Men, who have broken thro' all the *Laws of God, Nature, Humanity*, and their *Native Country*, to *Persecute* and *Ruin* Her Majesty's *Dissenting Subjects*: To prove this Allegation, *De Foe* Published a Lying *Scurrilous Pamphlet*, Entitled, *The Experiment: Or, The Shortest Way with the Dissenters*; and in it sets up one *Abraham Gill*, whom he calls a *Dissenting Minister*, or a *Preacher to a Congregation of Dissenters* in the *Isle of Ely*, and who had some Time before also been a *Conformist Minister* in the Church of *England*, legally Ordained by the Lord Bishop of *Chester*, and a Curate at *Maney* and *Wilney* in the *Isle* above-named; but being dissatisfy'd in his *Conscience* at the Use of the *Liturgy*, he left the Church, and set up for a *Dissenting Minister*.

This Man, the *Review* shows as an *Excellent Preacher*, a Man of a *Pious, Holy Conversation*, and whose Principal *Visible Crime* was *Serving God* according to his *Conscience*, and Teaching the same to others. On this Man the *Review* bestow'd all the kind Words imaginable, insomuch, that you know it procur'd *Gill* a *Par Purse* to defend himself against *High-Church*, the whole Body of *Dissenters* (as was suggested) being concerned in his *Prosecution*, as what attended themselves, if Things were carried at the *Rate* he represented them. I wish from my Heart, this Matter may be as substantially Proved, as its confidently Asserted; otherwise it will Scandalize our *Righteous Intentions*.

Nothing was then more loudly and maliciously discoursed in *Coffee-houses* by the *Whigs*, than the *Persecution* and causeless *Ruin* of that *Good and Holy Man*, that *Eminent Non-Conformist Preacher* Mr. *Abraham Gill*; and nothing grieves me more, than my

being so much concerned in spreading it : For when the Tryal came on at the Queen's-Bench Bar at *Westminster*, between *Gill* and the Country Justices of the Peace, Clergy-men and Gentlemen, whom he had entred an *Information* against in that Court of Justice, for an *illegal* and malicious *Prosecution* against him in the Country, and causing him to be *Impressed* into the *Army* as a *Vagabond* : When our Friends the *Whigs* were in expectation of carrying off their *Precious Saint* in Triumph, quite the contrary happen'd ; *Gill* was proved in open Court by irreproachable Evidences, to be one of the greatest *Villains* in the World. His pretended Orders were proved to be Forged, and that by no meaner Testimony than the Bishop of *Chester* himself ; That he had three Bastards by two common Strumpets, his Wife being alive. A Cloud of Witnesses of the best Credit, and among the rest by the Lord *Willoughby* of *Parham's* Letter, he was proved to be a most lewd, infamous *Vagabond*, guilty of enormous Immoralities in his Life, a publick disturber of the Peace, a common Counterfeit, a notorious Forger of two Bishops Hands and Episcopal Seals, producing the very *Forgeries* themselves in open Court ; and when he was detected of this, and excommunicated from the Church, all other Trades failing him, he set up, at last, an obscure illegal Conventicle ; for which, within two or three Weeks, being called to Account, he was found *unqualified*, in every Capacity, for a *Teacher*, and the Meeting it self, even in the very Letter of the Law, to be little better than a *Riot*. Upon all which, he was committed to Goal for want of Sureties for his good Behaviour, where he was Impress'd into the Army ; and now upon the whole Evidence on both Sides, the Court of Queen's-Bench discharged the *Information* in most *Pathetical* Expressions and warm Declarations against the *Vices* and *Villanies* of the Informant *Abraham Gill*.

You know, Sir, how furiously the *Whigs* cry'd out of *Persecution and Cruelty in the Church*, which no Man would have been better pleas'd to have heard proved, than my self, or contributed larger to the Charge of doing it ; but now to find all our Attempts against the *High Flyers* turn'd upon the *Whigs*, for assisting and protecting a notorious Villain, and that by apparent Lyes and Falshoods, it wounds me in the Tenderest Part, as throwing Infamy and Reproach upon our whole Party, scarce ever to be attoned for. And I blush for our Friend Mr. *De Foe*, whom I have a great esteem for, with respect to the many considerable Services he has done the *Whigs* ; but has now unwarily fallen under the Lash of the *Tories*, by vindicating a *Vagabond Villain* under the disguise of a *Dissenting Preacher* ; and his well Penn'd *Experiment*, which I sometime read with no ordinary Delight and Pleasure, prov'd by Authentick and Undeniable Evidence, to be nothing else than a Fardle of *Misrepresentations*,
Falsifi-

Falsifications, Forgeries and Perjuries, Counterfeit and Imposture. O tell it not in Gath, &c. lest the Tories renew their Insults, and the few Conscientious Friends we have left, forsake us, as unworthy the Name of Christians: And now to compleat this Scheme of Villany to Dedicate such an *Infamous Libel* to the Queens Majesty (tho' under the Rose I hear it was never delivered to Her) is such a Matchless piece of *Incorrigibility*, as nothing on this side *Hell* can equal: And tho' I cannot but love the Man, you will pardon me for being so warm upon the Methods he takes to support the *Whigs*, which if persevered in, must Ruin us all at last.

The next Instance that has done the Dissenters no little Injury in point of Reputation, was, an Accusation clandestinely fram'd and contrived by Mr. *Gravener* the Bayliff, and several other of our *Whig* Friends at *Ipswich*, in the County of *Suffolk*: Which Accusation being transmitted to Mr. C—— or to Sec. S—— they obtained an Order of Coun—l, as appears by the *Gazette* of *March* 17th, 1709, 10. that five Gentlemen of known Merit, Worth and Reputation in the said Town of *Ipswich*, viz. *Leicester Martin, Orlando Bridgman, Devereux Edgar, Millefon Edgar, Esquires, and Doctor John Dade*, should be Prosecuted by Her Majesty's Attorney General, and be put out of the Commission of the Peace by the Lord Chancellor; but upon a Hearing of the whole Matter, it plainly appear'd that the Gentlemen were *falsly* Accus'd by the said Bayliff *Gravener*, and his Accomplices, and accordingly were Discharg'd. Now if our Friends the *Whigs*, think to serve themselves and advance our Interests by no better Methods than by false Accusations, Lying and Slaundering, it's easie to prognosticate our Downfal, when our Ruin is so industriously contrived among our selves.

In committing such egregious Faults, and so easily prov'd, we look as if we were in a *Conspiracy* against our selves; and that our Cause was Naught, and could only be upheld by Ways and Means as abominable as it self. We are *reviving* a Doctrine, that cost the Expence of abundance of *Blood* and *Treasure*, in a Civil War to establish it: And because of late, the Sun of *Success* has seem'd to *shine* in our Faces, we cry out, *The Day is our own*, before its a quarter spent; without considering that it may be clouded in a Minute, and all our promising *Hopes* vanish into Air. 'Tis true, we have some *steady* Friends in *separate Congregations*, that stoutly maintain the Doctrine of *Resistance*, and the *Power of the People*: But believe me, there's no relying upon our *State-Whig* Friends, or our *Church-Whig* Friends. How easy is it to perceive that the Prelate of *Oxford* is for the Doctrine of *Resistance*, through his whole Speech, and yet at best he is but a *half-Friend* to us, for he has ruin'd our Cause *entirely* in 4 lines, in saying, that *no personal Fautes, no Injuries to particular Persons,*

nor no general Male Administration, can justify the Subjects Resisting their Sovereign Prince. And if this be true, what a Condition are we in now ? Since we have but few real Friends, fewer half Friends, and many Enemies ; it behoves us to wait with Patience, to treat the Tories civilly, and not shew our selves in our Colours too soon, lest we lose the Hold we have, and slip a lucky Opportunity of gaining our Point. Our Whig Friend Lambert, lost all by being too Peevish, Rash and Open ; and our Tory Enemy Monk gain'd all, by being Close, Friendly and Reserv'd.

Another thing not to be omitted, is the counterfeite Assumptions and clandestine Insinuations of the Doctor before hinted at, that fondly and falsely personates a Tory, and makes him speak so contrary to the Sentiments of that Party, that instead of them he makes himself Ridiculous. 'Tis true, he has Weaved his Stuff very Artificially, but if you bring it into the true Light, neither Woof or Wharp has one Thread of Truth in't ; and therefore, may justly be called the Pinkeman of the Whigish Drolls, that neither is what he seems, nor speaks what he thinks ! I neither know or care how other Men regard him ; but for my own Part, I have heard such a Character of him, that I never desire to have any thing to do with him ; for instead of Honouring, he defiles the Whigs by his false, feign'd, noisome Suggestions, which leave an Odium upon our Party, and grieves every honest Man, more particularly my self, who am a true Whig, and consequently abominate, all misrepresentations of Persons or Things, though levell'd against the worst of our Adversaries.

Again how can we excuse our selves from the Reproach that is but too justly objected against us, that when any of our Friends the publick Writers for our Party, are Prosecuted for high Crimes and Misdemeanors against the Queen and Government, there is always some Hole left in the Charge, for the Criminals to creep out at ? Our Purses, you know, have too much smarted already for such Artifices and Connivances, insomuch that the thoughts of such indirect Practices, having now seized my Conscience, I cannot forbear shewing my Resentments of this kind of Foul Play, and to pronounce it detestable and injurious to our whole Tribe of Dissenters. Tricks and subtle Evasions of Law, may last for a while ; but at length will hang so heavy about the Neck of our Republican Cause, as will sink it first into Contempt, and then into utter Ruin. Let us consider this seasonably, and not be imposed upon by others, for the greatest Clerks are not always the best and wisest Men. Conscience and not Artifice shall be my Guide for time to come ; for the hopes I have in another World, will not suffer to play the Knave in this.

We have liv'd too long in those very wrong and absurd Notions of doing Evil, that Good may come thereby ; to boggle at nothing that will serve the Ends of our Party, and ruin our Ad-

versaries, and to throw *Durt* and *Calumny* in great *abundance* upon the *High-Church* Folks, and then be sure some of it would stick upon them; witness the Load of *Filth*, that was lately, and in some things undeservedly thrown upon an Innocent. It is not ten Days since, that one of our Friends told me, *That he hoped all the Addressors would be Hang'd the next Session of Parliament*, and that few Men met *Episcopal* Clergy-men in the City, but they *justled* them into the *Channel*. I answer'd, it was a *scandal*; Citizens had more *Manners*, and he ought to learn more *Christian Charity*, than to Hang so many Men for speaking their *Minds*, and acting according to the Dictates of their *Consciences*. He reply'd, I was going to turn *Trimmer*, and lest me, not without a discovery of too much *Passion* and *Anger*, for my not running with him into the same *excess* of Folly and Madness. Now judge you, my dear Friend, whether such Men as these do not lay indelible *Stains* upon the *Low-Church* Party? How does it agree with our *Principles*, that plead for an *universal Toleration* and *Liberty* of Conscience, to Hang up the *High Flyers*, for exercising the Liberty of *their* Consciences? And how will it appear, that we are Men of great *Moderation*, when we give our selves the Liberty of discovering so much Bigotted Heat and Fury, and breath out little else, but *Fire* and *Faggot*, against the *Tory Addressors*. Pardon me, that I cannot help foreboding, the dismal Consequences that will inevitably attend us truly *Moderate Whigs*, if such *unreasonable* and *unwarrantable* Practices are countenanc'd in the *Incendiaries* of our Party.

All the Nation are of Opinion, and will be so, tho' we use all possible means to *conceal* it, that our *trusty* Friends, the Authors of the *Observer* and *Review* are our *Pensioners*, and that we support them, since their *Weekly Papers* will scarce defray the Charge of *Paper* and *Printing*; and two such plentiful Eaters and Drinkers cannot live like *Chamelions* upon Air; and then if we maintain 'em or but own 'em in no better Capacity than the *Tools* of our Party, it will necessarily follow, that we also own their *Principles*, and concur with their Printed *Sentiments* of Men and Things. And since Mr. *Defoe* writes in the Name of *All the Dissenters in England*, why may we not be justly charg'd with justifying the Murder of King *Charles I.* Since he can find no difference between the *Wet Martyrdom* of King *Charles I.* and the *dry Martyrdom* of King *James II.* and the other says, he cannot blame the Men that *Detruncated* him. Is not our Party chargeable with *Defoe's* barefac'd Assertion, *That if Jure Divino comes again upon the Stage, the Queen has no more Right to the Crown, than my Lord Mayors Horse; and that Her Subjects ought to rise up against Her and Depose Her.* Are we not justly chargeable with threatening the House of Commons to open the *Magazine* of original Power upon them, if they continu'd to sit, doing nothing?

thing? Are we not liable to account for *Ridpath*, the *Observers* flirting at our well chosen *General*, and scurvilously treating all *Orders* and *Degrees* of Men in the Kingdom, except the red hot *Whiggs* of his own Denomination? Methinks we should utterly renounce these *Principles*, and then we abdicate our *Cause*; or keep them warm under a closer *Cover*, and not shew our Folly and Indiscretion in *proclaiming* what we ought to *conceal*, and hugging the Men we should banish as the Pests of Human Society.

Are these the *Men* and the *Maxims*, that must entitle us to the Favour of the *Queen* and *Government*? Is it possible any Government in the World, how *Meek* and *Merciful* soever, can suffer it self to be thus Abus'd, Traduc'd and Threatned, by its profess'd Enemies, and that too with Impunity? Have we no Friends left to *check* these Exorbitancies? We have set the Pens of these and many other Whigs a running against the Government, and don't you think it is yet time to stop their *Carier*, before they break the Necks of the whole Party? Let them that think so take it for their *Pains*, for my Part, I glory in being (it seems) the only *Stanch Whig* that dares remind his Friends of their *Faults*, and direct them to the *proper* Methods to rectify their Mistakes before it too late.

We loudly complain of the *Profaneness* and *Debauchery* of others, when the worst of those Crimes, with all the aggravating Circumstances in Nature, lie at our own Doors. Our Authors say, that wheresoever you meet a *Swearer*, a *Drunkard* or a *Whoremonger*, upon Examination you will certainly find him to be a *Tory*, which had been better omitted than asserted; for the *High-Flyers* in return, tell us, that *Whig* and *Whoremonger* are convertible Terms, and in plain *English* signify the same thing. That if the *Tories* swear unawares, the *Whigs* make nothing of breaking *Solemn Oaths*, by Staging *Resistance* in the place of *Obedience* to the Supreme Powers: If they do not *Swear*, yet they Lie so abominably that no Body believes when they speak Truth; and That they have little need of *Drink*, that only *Thirst* after *Blood*.

Nay, the *High-Flyers* go farther, and challenge us to produce an Instance of any Man of *Figure* among the *Tories*, that ever Debauch'd an *Orphan* committed to his *Care*, and prevail'd with her to levy a *Fine*, to deprive the right Heir of his Inheritance, and settle her Estate on his *Merry-Begets*! Or of any Person in the whole List of *Tories*, that ever lent a certain Innocent *Blunt Taylor* one Hundred Pounds, and then threw him into the *Fleet Prison* for it, and seiz'd his *Wife*, as the best Goods or Chattels the poor Man had, and kept her for his own Use and Occupation! I hope neither of these Stories are true, and mention them for no other Reason but to show the danger of *Recriminating*, and upbraiding others with Faults, that we are more *Guilty* of our

our selves ; which is a great misfortune among the *Whigs* ; they have more Eyes than *Argus* Abroad, and blinder than *Moles* at Home. Possibly you may think these Reflections are too severe on my Part, but I hope I may be allow'd to declare the *Truth*, and so discharge my Conscience, that I may not partake of other Mens Sins, or flatter my *Whig* Friends to the Destruction of their Cause and Themselves.

What a Noise has been long made by the *Politick Whigs* and *Dissenters*, under several Denominations, about the *Magazine of Original Power in the People ? the Original Contract between the Sovereign and the Subject* ; and I know not how many more *Originals*, of *limited Allegiance*, and the *unlimited and unalienable Rights of Resistance*, which certainly are the most desirable, and would be the most welcom *Records* in the World, to Men of our Principles ; who hate to be Limited by any Laws or Customs, but those of our own *Humours* and *Interests*. We are in no little want of all these *Originals*, and diligent search has been made after 'em, but hitherto to very little Purpose: 'Tis true, not long since I was in great expectation of it, upon hearing a Gentleman talk as *Confidently* on that Subject, as if he had had the very *Original Contract* in his Pocket ; but after all, it vanish'd into an unintelligible *Phantom*, called an *Implication*, *Anglice* a *New Nothing*, and so I return'd into the Country as *Wise* as I came out. Why do our *Whig* Friends abuse and banter us at this Vile rate ? Had not his *Silence* on that Head been more Edifying like a *Quakers* Meeting, 'till we had opened the *Magazine of Original Power*, and made such an *Original Contract* as would best suit with our own Convenience. To be serious, let our Friends speak *Truth*, or be silent, our *Good Old Cause* wants *Power*, not *Shams* and *Falshood* to support it ; if the cannot make our Condition better let them not make worse by *Chimerical* Suggestions without Probation.

Another Assertion of some Learn'd *Whigs*, does no less offend me than the former, *viz.* That *Preaching Passive Obedience and Non-Resistance in any Case whatsoever, is teaching Men to Rebel and to take up Arms against Her Majesty*. For my part, I think it downright *Nonsense*, or at best a forc'd *Construction*, if so interpreted ; for no Man in his *Senses* could mean it. Nay if the Preacher himself should aver that to have been his *Meaning*, he ought to have been sent away immediately to *Bedlam*, to clean *Straw* and a dark *Room*, rather than into the Custody of the *Black Rod*. Now peradventure you will say, I am pleading the Cause of the *Tories*. No, I utterly deny it ; I am talking on behalf of *Unsophisticated Reason*, *Genuine Construction*, and *unbribed Consequence*, and if that be a Fault, I shall glory in being accounted a *Criminal*, in some Mens Apprehensions. What, can't a Man be a *Whig*, but at the same time he must be a *Tool*, only fit to be im-

pos'd upon? Can't a Man be a *Republican*, but he must be depriv'd of his *Reason*? Can't a Man be a *Dissenter*, but he must forfeit his *Understanding*, and turn *Bruit* to prove he has a *Rational Soul*? No, if these are the *Terms of Admission* into some Mens Friendships, I shall continue a *Stranger* to 'em: And if the *Colliers Creed* to believe *Blindfold*, must be thought *Christianity*, let my Soul remain among the *Philosophers*.

Nor can I with any pretence to *Reason* or *Conscience*, Invest any Mortal, with one of the *Prerogatives* of God Almighty, to know another Mans *Thoughts*, and to Interpret his *Meaning* better than he can himself, as some, and they no mean *Whigs*, have lately pretended to do; which I am of Opinion, is a bold *Imposition* upon Mankind, and so dangerous in the *Consequence*, that no Man can be secure of his *Life, Estate* or *Liberty*, where such a wicked Suggestion shall prevail; for if another Person that never saw me before, shall be allow'd to know my *Thoughts* and interpret my *Meaning*, contrary to my plain and express Words, he has the Power to dispose of me at his own Will and Pleasure. I urge not this in favour of any Person whatsoever; but with special regard to our selves, as *Whigs* and *Dissenters*; for if as the *Tories* affirm already, that our *Words* and *Actions* are liable to their *wholesom Severities*, how fatal would be our *Destiny*, if they scrutiniz'd our *Thoughts*, and were allow'd to interpret our *Meanings*? Such Proceedings as these, amaze and stagger all the World, and some well-meaning People, that were halting in their Opinions between God and Baal, between the Establish'd Church, and but Indulg'd Meeting-Houses, are now entirely confirm'd from our own Management, that if Parties and Factions encrease in the State, and Schisms and Seditious multiply in the Church, the *Whigs* are the sole Cause of them, who care not if the whole World were in Broils and Confusion, so their own Designs were answer'd, and their personal Piques Reveng'd.

Nor is this my single Opinion, for you know a certain *Titular Lord*, who is intirely in our Interest, has told us by Word of Mouth, and in Print too, that the former *Prejudices* of the *Whigs*, against what we call *High-Church*, begin to wear off, and the *Conscientious* and *Wiser* sort of *Dissenters*, flock to the *Steeple-Houses* in great Numbers: And for ought I perceive, if this kind of Management is continu'd by our Party, and we persecute the *Tories* for *Dissenting* from us, in no less considerable Instances, than *Resisting* or not *Resisting* the Supreme Power, which is the only Quarrel between us; I shall also be temptred to bid *Adieu* to the Herd of *Whigs*, and abandon the Cause, I have hitherto both in *Purse* and *Person*, so zealously Espous'd and Defended.

How can we excuse or Palliate, our crying out against *Popery* and *Popish Principles*, when at the same time we are fiercely opposing the Church of *England*, which must be allow'd to be the

main *Bulwark* against the Invasion of *Romish* Superstition and Idolatry, and whose Members were the only Persons that stem'd the Inundation of *Popery*, and *Arbitrary Power* in a late Reign, whilst we cajold, flatter'd, *Address'd* and *Congratulated* the unfortunate Prince, who was then Eradicating the *Protestant Religion* ! and which is altogether as *bad*, we are now setting up the Doctrine of *Resistance*, which is undeniably a *Popish* Doctrine, and was calculated to support *Popish Tyranny*, in *Dethroning* secular Princes ; and that we inculcate too, under the happy Reign of the best of Protestant Princes. Why do we thus heap *Contradiction* upon *Contradiction*, and *Falsity* upon *Falsity* ? When our own *Offences* are already grown so *Mountainous*, that they are in open view of all the World, and some of our *best* Friends have occasionally *reproach'd* us with them.

We complain of a violent Persecution rais'd against us in the Reign of King *Charles II.* and the *Tyranny* exercised over our *Consciences* ; which I mentioning the other Day to one of our Friends in the Country of known Integrity ; he desir'd my silence on that Subject ; for says he, We poor unfortunate *Whigs* are so Unhappy, that in our *Selves* or our *Ancestors*, we have been in a higher degree guilty of the same *Crimes*, than we can justly charge the *Tories* with. We were persecuted in King *Charles II.* Days, its true ; but if we look back to the Reign of the first *Whigs*, except those in the Reign of *Edw. II.* I mean the *Parliament* that rais'd a *War* against King *Charles I.* we may find an *Ordonance* of that *Parliament*, which they caus'd to be printed and affix'd to the *Directory*, strictly prohibiting the use of the *COMMON PRAYER*, not only in Churches and Families, but even in a Mans *Private Closet*, under the *Penalty* of 5*l.* for the first Offence, 10*l.* for the second, and 20*l.* and a Years Imprisonment, without Bail or Mainprize, for the third : Now says he, I chalenge you, and all the Friends we have, to produce such an *Instance* in King *Charles II.* Reign, of Persecution and *Tyrannizing* over Mens *Consciences*, as this was : And then he left me to consider, whether *Taciturnity* would not be more commendable among the *Whigs*, than reproaching the *Tories* with our own more apparent Transgressions in the same Instances.

We accuse the *Tories* with *Over-Greatning* our Protestant Princes, and shewing too great a Duty and *Obedience* to our Sovereign ; or to borrow the Words of the Author of the *Thoughts of an honest Tory*, that they make an extravagant noise about *Obedience*, the Cloak for *Turbulency*. And yet Mr. *Alsop*, a Presbyterian Preacher in *Westminster*, in his own, and in the Names of a numerous Train of *Whigs* of his Congregation, in a Printed Address gave thanks to a *Popish* Prince, viz. the late King *James*, for restoring God Almighty to his *Prerogative* over *Conscience* ! Was not this making King *James* greater than God Almighty, that stood in need of his Assistance to be restored to his *Prerogative* ? Which

I also think by the way, borders upon *Blasphemy*. And as if this was not sufficient to shew their Meaning, they wish their *were Windows in their Breasts, that his Majesty might see the Sincerity of their Intentions to do him Service*; and what Service that Monarch employ'd his *Tools* in, is too well known to be repeated. I am Asham'd and Confounded with the Thoughts, that such *Leading Whigs* should give the *Tories* an Opportunity of upbraiding us with being *Popishly Affected*, and courting a Prince that was Exterminating the *Northern Heresy*, i. e. the Protestant Religion.

The *Tories*, we say, Insult the Queen and Government, which I am afraid to mention, for fear of being told, that a Crew of Confident *Whigs*, lately took upon 'em to direct a certain *Blessed Sovereign* that shall be Nameless, in the Conduct of Family Affairs, and pretended to discover Dangers in the wise Methods that had been taken to prevent them. In short, all their Suggestions were meer *Chimera's*; nothing but Apparitions in their own disturb'd Party Imaginations, and yet were favourably dismiss'd, though they very ill requited it, by giving out false Reports afterwards.

At so great a distance from *London*, I know not how well you are furnish'd with *Whig* Books and Pamphlets. It has been my unhappiness to meet with none that were worth the Reading on our Side; and therefore, if you have the good Fortune to encounter any, that have either *Modesty, Wit, Sense or Truth* in 'em, pray send them by the Carrier, and I'll return the Cost. The *Thoughts of an Honest Tory*, I borrow'd, Read and have return'd it with more Satisfaction, than I had in perusing it; for his *Gown* sake I forbear *Reflection*, and leave him to Mr. C---! to use him as he deserves, for defiling his own *Nest*, and Writing against the Church he has his *Bread* from. He has an *Aversion*, he says, for a *Wag*, and I have a greater for a *Counterfeit*, tho' he Writes in Favour of the *Whigs*, of which Number I am one, as far as it consists with my *Duty* to the Queen, my *Love* to the Peace and Tranquility of my Country, and the *Welfare* of the Protestant Religion, in all which, I am dear Friend, *Yours*.

The thoughts of an honest Whig upon
the present proceedings of that party..

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